(c) whether it could be tried in other States also and if so, to what advantage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Crop Adjustment Programme proposed by the Government of Punjab mooted by Dr. S.S. Johl needs to be examined carefully, keeping in view the food security as well as problems of soil fertility and water management.

(b) Crop diversification is a national issue keeping in view the natural resources *viz.* the soil health problems and availability of irrigation water which is depleting year after year. Diversification does not aim at Second Green Revolution but to shift area from exhaustive crops like rice, wheat to soil restorative crops *viz.*, oilseeds, pulses and fodder crops etc.

(c) Diversification is being advocated during National Conference being organised every year before Kharif and Rabi seasons considering the merit of bringing sustainability in agricultural production conserving natural resources.

Availability of quality seeds

4355. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the absence of availability of quality seeds farmers have been affected at large;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether superior seeds varieties have been made available through National Seeds Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The availability of certified/quality seed was 103.96 lakh quintals against the requirement of 94.76 lakh quintals during the year 2002-03.

(c) No, Sir The National Seeds Board is not in existence.